The DBT funding is to the tune of about Rs. 10.00 crores per year for R&D activities pertaining to these crops/transgenic development. Funding of need-based specific project on transgenics in agriculture is also carried out.

(d) In the ICAR, the total number of scientists in plant biotechnology is:-

Discipline	Sanctioned	In position
Bio-technology (Plant Sciences)	99	68

Out of the above scientists, several are working towards development of transgenics.

(e) Time for development of transgenics depends upon the specific gene of interest, technology used etc. It generally takes about 5 to 7 years to develop transgenics in crops. After this further time is required for bio-safety tests and fields trials before release.

(f) National Agricultural Research Sysgtem encompassing all its components of public sector, private sector and several other agencies/ institutes may collectively meet the national need of research programmes in transgenics. Development of transgenics requires team effort.

(g) A symbiotic partnership, rather than joint venture alone, between all components of the National Agricultural Research System may be beneficial.

Agricultural production

1608. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether agricultural production during 2004-2005 is likely to meet the projected targets; and

(b) if not, the reasons of deceleration and the steps proposed to boost agricultural growth?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) The targeted production of foodgrains and

commercial crops for 2004-2005 and the First Advance Estimates of production during Kharif 2004-05 is shown below:

(Million Tonnes)

Crops	Targets 2004-05			Achieve-ments 2004-05
	Kharif	Rabi	Total	Kharif
Foodgrains	113.80	111.30	225.10	100.29
Oilseeds	16.29	9.91	26.20	15.45
Cotton*			15.00	13.85
Sugarcane			270.00	235.45
Jute & Mesta**			11.80	10.76

* Million Bales of 170 kgs. each

**Million Bales of 180 kgs. each.

(b) Compared to 2003, the southwest monsoon this year was erratic with prolonged weak/break monsoon conditions prevailing during late June, most of July, late August and early September over different parts of the country.

The deficient rainfall from the south west monsoon during 2004 is the main reason for decline in the agricultural production during the Kharif season of 2004-05.

The programmes aimed at boosting production and pruductivity of foodgrains include the following:-

(i) Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP Rice)

(ii) Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Wheat Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Wheat).

(iii) Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Coarse Cereals Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Coarse Cereals).

From October 2000, these schemes have been subsumed under Macro Management Programme with a view to provide flexibility according to regionally differentiated needs of the States.

A new Centrally Sponsored Scheme on 'On Farm Water Management for increasing Crop Production in Eastern India' was launched from 2002-2003. The objective of the scheme is to increase production & productivity of crops through exploiting abundant ground/ surface water, in the Eastern India. Under the scheme, assistance is provided for (i) installation of shallow tube wells (STW) with pumping sets, (ii) electric/diesel water pumping sets, (iii) Low Lift Irrigation Points (LIP), and (iv) dug wells in hills and plateau regions. The scheme is being implemented in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Manipur, Mizoram, Orissa, West Bengal and Eastern Uttar Pradesh. The scheme is a back-ended credit linked one and is being implemented through the National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development.

As regards pulses, assistance is provided for purchase of breeder seed, production of foundation seed, production and distribution of certified seed, distribution of seed minikits etc. Under the centrally sponsored scheme of Integrated Scheme for Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) launched in April 2004.

Drought Assistance to Rajasthan

†1609. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rajasthan is reeling under severe famine until the arrival of new crops;

(b) whether drought condition in the State is far more severe than that of other States;

(c) whether Government plan to provide financial assistance to that State for drought relief until arrival of the new crops in the month of November; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.